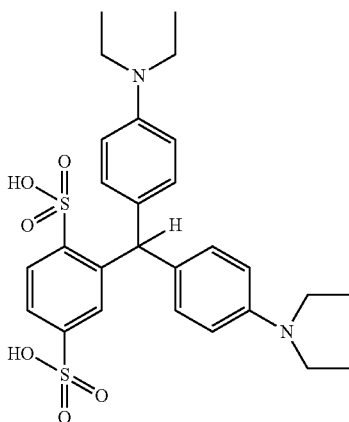
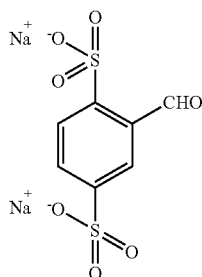


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9. The compound according to claim 5 wherein the isoleuco acid of the formula



is prepared by combining a benzaldehyde-2,5-disulfonic acid, disodium salt of the formula



with N, N-diethylaniline, and urea and glacial acetic acid.

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10. The compound according to claim 5 wherein the process comprises recrystallization of N-[4-[[4-(diethylamino)phenyl](2,5-disulfophenyl)methylene]-2,5-cyclohexadien-1-ylidene]-N-ethylethanaminium using a solvent selected from the group consisting of a polar solvent, a non-polar solvent and a combination thereof to afford HPLC purity greater than 99.5%.

11. A solution containing N-[4-[[4-(diethyl amino)phenyl](2,5-disulfophenyl)methylene]-2,5-cyclohexadien-1-ylidene]-N-ethylethanaminium, sodium salt, the N-[4-[[4-(diethyl amino)phenyl](2,5-disulfophenyl)methylene]-2,5-cyclohexadien-1-ylidene]-N-ethylethanaminium, sodium salt having a purity of at least 99.0% by HPLC.

12. The solution according to claim 11 wherein the N-[4-[[4-(diethyl amino)phenyl](2,5-disulfophenyl)methylene]-2,5-cyclohexadien-1-ylidene]-N-ethylethanaminium, sodium salt has a purity between 99.0% and 99.5% by HPLC.

13. The solution according to claim 11 having less than 20 ppm silver.

14. The solution according to claim 13 wherein the N-[4-[[4-(diethyl amino)phenyl](2,5-disulfophenyl)methylene]-2,5-cyclohexadien-1-ylidene]-N-ethylethanaminium, sodium salt has a purity greater than 99.5% by HPLC.

15. A composition consisting essentially of N-[4-[[4-(diethyl amino)phenyl](2,5-disulfophenyl)methylene]-2,5-cyclohexadien-1-ylidene]-N-ethylethanaminium, sodium salt, the N-[4-[[4-(diethyl amino)phenyl](2,5-disulfophenyl)methylene]-2,5-cyclohexadien-1-ylidene]-N-ethylethanaminium, sodium salt having a purity of at least 99.0% by HPLC.

16. The composition according to claim 15 wherein the N-[4-[[4-(diethyl amino)phenyl](2,5-disulfophenyl)methylene]-2,5-cyclohexadien-1-ylidene]-N-ethylethanaminium, sodium salt has a purity between 99.0% and 99.5% by HPLC.

17. The composition according to claim 15 having less than 20 ppm silver.

18. The composition according to claim 17 wherein the N-[4-[[4-(diethyl amino)phenyl](2,5-disulfophenyl)methylene]-2,5-cyclohexadien-1-ylidene]-N-ethylethanaminium, sodium salt has a purity greater than 99.5% by HPLC.

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